Security of Tirupati Hills

345. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have perceived the threat to temples of international repute like Tirputi in Andhra Pradesh in the wake of.terrorists attacks in W.T.C. in New York on September 11, 2001;

(b) what are the other potential targets of attacks in the country and the security arrangements around these places apart from the efforts of respective State Governments;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to notify the "Tirupati" seven hills as no fly zone; and

(d) if so, the action taken so far in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO:) (a) and (b) After the terrorist attack on W.T.C, New York, Ministry of Home Affairs has issued instructions to the State Governments and the concerned Ministries for strengthening of security arrangements of airports and other vital installations, historical monuments of national importance, important Government establishment and major centers of religious, business and commercial importance which are likely to be targeted by the terrorists. Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) have been constituted at sensitive airports and major installations in the country to deal with any strikes by militants or insurgent groups. At major centers of religious importance elaborate and tight security arrangements with provision for surveillance, anti-sabotage checks and access control to deal with terrorist attack are made by the respective State Government and/or by the Mangcment Committee of such religious centers.

(c) and (d) A proposal has been received in this regard from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.